

WELCOME BACK!

Although some of you in year-round schools have been back at school for over a month, this welcome is for you too. We are looking forward to the 2013-14 school year being one of renewed commitment to our mission to provide students with the best prevention tools possible to deal with the issues of underage drinking, other drug use, risky and impaired driving, and other destructive decisions; a renewed commitment to having energized, active SADD chapters.

Your SADD chapter is not just a school "club." It is a peer prevention leadership organization. Even though we are not all trained professionals, we can still make a difference in our schools and communities. If you need help with anything during the year, please contact the state coordinator. The coordinator is here to help you in many ways, including programming and materials. We can even try to help you find some money for your programs!



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Issue 7

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Ideas? Questions? Concerns?

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To have the SADD newsletter come directly to you, join the SADD mail list at www.ncyaio.com



Conference registration forms will be sent out a bit later than usual this year. That's because we are working on obtaining some major funding that may reduce registration fees to much lower than last year. Hooray! Start making prep-

arations now, so that when the forms are published, all you have to do is complete and return them. If you need to raise funds, start doing it now. Last year's participants said the conference was the best they had attended. Believe it or not, the 2013 conference will surpass it. For chapters that will attend the conference for the first time, please see the 2012 conference brochure at www.ncsadd.org or www.ncyaio.com to get an idea of what the program is like. You can also view past conference photos.

The Brownstone Hotel, where the conference will be held, was recently renovated, offering upscale sleeping rooms and amenities. We'll have a good time and a great conference there. If you have any questions or need more information about the conference, contact the state coordinator.

GOT TALENT?

If there are talented members in your chapter, it would be an honor to feature them on the program at the conference. Can you sing, dance, write poetry, paint, draw? This is not just for students only; we also want to celebrate advisor talent. Let the state coordinator know you would like to be on the program. Don't be shy. You're a leader!

BRINGING IN THE BOYS

September is SADD Sign-Up month, the time of year that we begin new chapters and bring in new members. In addition to general enrollment, we want to focus on a particular segment of the school population. Near the end of last term, chapters were challenged to increase male enrollment and male conference participation. Our female members are doing a great job in their schools, but they could do even better if they had help from the boys. We need more boys involved in this positive organization to model constructive decision-making for other boys on campus.

According to a recent *Vital Signs* report by the Centers for Disease Control, the percentage of teens ages 16 to 19 who drink and drive has fallen by 54 percent since 1991. They attribute this improvement law and attitude changes. Unfortunately, one in 10 teens still drives drunk or drugged regularly, and boys are more likely to drive drunk than girls. Boys are less likely to use seat-



belts than girls, and they more often engage in risky behavior when driving. So girls, go get those boys!

WHAT'S GOING ON?

The next time your chapter does an activity or project, share it with the other chapters across the state. Email a description of your project with photos, if available, to the state coordinator. You will be included in the next issue of *Connect*. Don't feel that your project is unremarkable, no matter how many times it has been done. We can all learn from each other, and we are proud of what we do.

CELEBRATE MY DRIVE

There is still time to participate in State Farm's **Celebrate My Drive**, a community celebration of safe driving habits. According to State Farm's public affairs community specialist, we now have 46 North Carolina schools signed up, and we hope to get more over the next month. If your school hasn't signed up, do so immediately. It doesn't cost a thing, and there's a lot to win.

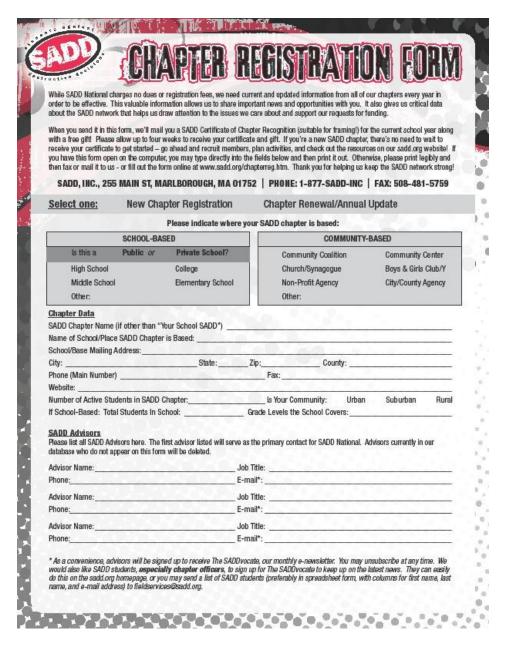
REGISTER YOUR CHAPTER WITH NATIONAL

Each SADD chapter must register or update their registration with the national office each school year. That is the only means of keeping track of the number and location of chapters in each state and in the country. It only takes a few minutes. You can register online at

www.sadd.org by clicking in the "Update Your Registration!" box at the top left. If you prefer a paper form so that you have a copy, the site also offers a pdf registration form (see below) which can be typed directly into, printed and mailed. Each chapter will receive a current year certificate and a gift after registering. If you need materials and help getting your chapter started, the state coordinator will be happy to help you.

HAVE YOUR STUDENTS JOINED CONNECT MAIL LIST?

Advisors, please have your students sign up to receive the *Connect* newsletter by going to www.ncyaio.com. If they'd prefer, they may email the state coordinator, and they will be added to the mail list. The purpose of *Connect* is to keep SADD chapters connected throughout the state, and that will not happen if everyone is not receiving the newsletter. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.





North Carolina Department of Administration Youth Advocacy and Involvement Office